

Remarks

Claims 1-68 are pending in the present application. Claims 63-68 are withdrawn without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-62 in the present application are respectfully requested and an allowance at an earliest date is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1,2, 5, 8, 10, 14, 19, 20, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43, 44, 55, 56 and 58-62 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marshall (U.S.Patent No. 5,160,142). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 14, 19, 20, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43, 44, 55, 56 and 58-62 remain unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 55, 56 and 58-60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McCabe (U.S.Patent No. 3,880,430). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 55, 56 and 58-60 remain unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 26, 30-33, 35, 39, 42, 45, 46 and 55-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller (U.S. Patent 2,503,506). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 26, 30-33, 35, 39, 42, 45, 46 and 55-62 remain unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 13, 19, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 39 and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson (U.S. Patent 5,143,376). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 13, 19, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 39 and 55 remain unamended.

We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 24, 31-33 and 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tindale (U.S. Patent 6,558,268). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 24, 31-33 and 39 remain unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1-4, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolk (U.S. Patent 5,551,695). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4, 39 and 40 have been unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 2, 15-18 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Honig (U.S. Patent 5,362,058). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 15-18 and 39 have been unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 19, 26, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39 and 46-57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lancellotti (U.S. Patent 4,135,720). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 19, 26, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39 and 46-57 remain unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

Claims 21-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honig (U.S. Patent 5,362,058). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 21-23 and 25 have been unamended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

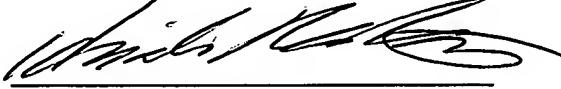
Claims 36 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancellotti (U.S. Patent 4,135,720). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 36 and 38 have not bee amended. We have not had any instructions from the inventors or the assignee, and we are not able to respond to this rejection fully without possibly narrowing the scope of the claims or making remarks that may cause a file wrapper estoppel problem in the future.

In view of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested and an allowance at an early date is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney at (213) 624-2500.

Respectfully submitted,

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